1st Meeting

1916

MINUTES OF GENERAL COMMITTEE, JUNE 5TH, 10 A.M.

Present: Committee Room - 6th Flr. - 156 - 5th Ave. N.Y. City

Mrs. Coy from Board of the Northwest
Miss Hodge from Philadelphia Board
Mrs. Finney from Occidental Board
Mrs. Waters from New York Board
Mrs. Bain from Board of the Southwest
Mrs. Bennett :
Miss Hyatt :
Mrs. McAfee : from Woman's Board of Home Missions.
Mrs. Hopper :
Mrs. Louderbough :
Miss Quinlan :

Mrs. Coy requested Mrs. Bennett to lead in prayer.

On motion, Mrs. Coy was asked to serve as Chairman ~~because~~ of her being Chairman of Central Committee.

On motion, Miss Quinlan was asked to serve as Secretary.

The matters on the Chicago docket which had not been unanimously passed by the separate Boards were taken up in order as follows:

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

No. 10 - Westminster Guild.

Foreign Boards suggested the following change in wording:

> "Recommend that the suggested age of admission to Westminster Guild members shall be from 18-30 years and strongly recommend that the term of membership shall not exceed ten years."

Mrs. Bennett so moved; seconded and carried.

No. 13 - Sunday Schools.

Foreign Boards accept Home Board's suggestion that the word "mission" be inserted before the word "Band".

Vote was taken on the re-wording of the paragraph as suggested by the Foreign Boards as follows:

"Recommend in accordance with the deliverance of General Assembly on cultivation of the Sunday School as a responsibility of the general Boards of Home and Foreign Missions, all gifts from the Sunday Schools should go to the Treasurers of these Boards. Hence, if any mission Band is organized in the Sunday School and holds no meetings except as a Sunday School Class, it is auxiliary to the General Boards. When a mission band is organized in the Sunday School composed either of members of a class or members from different classes and holds regular missionary meetings at which missionary offerings are received outside the Sunday School session, it is auxiliary to the Woman's Boards. The responsibility for carrying out this policy in loyalty to our General Assembly rests upon the officers and members of the Woman's Boards of Home and Foreign Missions in cooperation with synodical and presbyterial officers."

Seconded and carried.

No. 14 A - Pledge Blanks.

Moved by Mrs. Bain that the matter of the uniform Pledge Blanks be referred back to the New York Board.

Seconded and carried.

Light Bearers and Christian Endeavorers.

The Board of the Southwest had approached the Home Board with the following question. It was also sent as C.C. (central committee) question to the Foreign Boards: "Shall the Woman's Boards of Foreign Missions and the Woman's Board of Home Missions unite in preparing programs for the use of Light Bearers and Junior Christian Endeavor Societies?" (See Addenda)

The Foreign Boards suggested that the question be divided as follows:

A. Recommend that the Woman's Boards of Home and Foreign Missions unite in preparing programs for the use of Light Bearers which shall present equally both Home and Foreign Mission topics.

B. Recommend that the Woman's Boards of Home and Foreign Missions unite in preparing monthly missionary programs for Junior Christian Endeavor Societies, following as far as possible the topics assigned for the Juniors by the United Society of Christian Endeavor.

Mrs. Bennett moved that we approve these recommendations A and B: seconded and carried.

No. 15 - Student Secretaries - Evangelistic Campaigns.

The Board of the Northwest did not agree with the change made after the conference and the Foreign Boards suggested the following in accordance with the re-wording by the Board of the Northwest:

> "Recommend that our field Student Secretaries do not engage in evangelistic campaigns, but that if a campaign is in progress in a college to which a Student Secretary has been promised, the Secretary may speak from the platform at meetings, if the Joint Committee on Student Work is unanimously in favor of it, but may not actively participate in the campaign."

Miss Hodge moved we accept the wording of the Board of the Northwest: seconded and carried.

MISSIONARY EDUCATION.

The Foreign Boards recommended that the following standard for the four types be accepted:

No. 1. - The Study Class. (See Addenda)

A small group of persons who meet, frequently preferably once a week for the systematic study, under a leader, of some one of the mission fields or problems. The course should include from six to ten sessions. (Four session courses are not recommended for the local class using the six or eight chapter books, but for field secretaries, and intended to demonstrate in a brief space of time practical mission study methods.)

For the best work the class should number from ten to twenty members. Its method is not the lecture or program method, but informal discussion. Each member owns a text book, prepares an assigned lesson, and quite freely and informally participates in the discussions of the class hour. The leader plans the course, outlines the assignments, endeavors to stimulate discussion and to guide it to conclusions of value and always seeks to call forth self-expression on the part of the members of the group. Leaders should study methods of teaching carefully, and constantly endeavor to improve the standard of work done.

This method of missionary education is adaptable to all grades of students, and leaders should not be

discouraged or deterred from attempting the work because of the high standard set.

Seconded and carried.

No. II - The Lecture Course.

Mrs. Bennett moved the adoption of No. II as re-worded:

"The lecture course is closely allied to the study class. It reaches a much larger group, and persons unwilling to enter a small group in which they will have to take part will attend a lecture course in which they will not be called upon to participate. This method should not be considered a substitute for the mission study class."

Seconded and carried.

No. III - Stands.

No. IV - Reading Circle.

Mrs. Waters moved that the addition of a second definition for the Reading Circle be included and the whole paragraph read as follows:

"The Reading Circle may be a group of persons who agree to meet at stated intervals at which time some one of the number reads aloud a book on one of the mission fields or some interesting phase of the work. The Reading ~~Circle~~ may or may not be followed by informal discussion."

"Or a group of persons may agree to read in their own homes some interesting missionary book and meet regularly ~~discussion~~ informally what they have read." & discuss

(See Addenda 1)

Seconded and carried.

No. V - Promoting of Missionary Education.

Miss Hyatt moved that the re-wording by the Foreign Boards be approved, as follows:

"Recommend that missionary education in the local churches shall be promoted from headquarters through the Board Secretary who should maintain a personal touch with the leaders and organizers of mission study classes in presbyterial and synodical societies, and also by synodical and presbyterial secretaries of Missionary Education in cooperation with the Board Secretary."

Seconded and carried.

No. VI

Reporting study classes had been divided into two sections by the Foreign Boards.

Miss Hyatt moved the approval of both A and B as follows:

> "A. Recommend that local mission study classes be reported by their leaders directly to the Boards through enrolment cards. That Board Secretaries send copies of these records - monthly if possible - to synodical secretaries who in turn will send copies to their presbyterial secretaries.
> "B. That presbyterial and synodical secretaries shall, in addition, secure records of classes which have not previously reported, and forward to the Boards."

PUBLICATIONS.

No. I - Blanks.

Mrs. Bennett moved that the additional paragraph as worded by the Foreign Boards be added and the whole read as follows:

> "Recommended that we accept the report blanks sent out by the Philadelphia Board with changes noted in the minutes and that even where there are joint organizations two blanks be sent out, one with home and one with foreign imprint.
> "Recommended that there shall be two printings of the local blanks for the young people's organizations.

Seconded and carried.

No. II - Joint Publications.

Mrs. Louderbough moved to accept the New York Board's wording as recommended by the Foreign Boards as follows:

> "Recommend that carbon copies of joint publications be submitted to both Home and Foreign Boards and if no definite order has been received within three weeks it will be considered that the publication is not desired. Manuscripts will be sent to the different Boards as heretofore."

Seconded and carried.

No. III - Over Sea and Land.

The Foreign Boards recommend that the second plan recommended

by the Home Board be approved.

Mrs. Hopper moved that this recommendation be accepted and the wording read as follows:

> "Plan No. II - "If the Boards do not wish to accept plan No. I as proposed, we offer the following suggestion for the continuance of "Over Sea and Land."
>
> 1. We feel that the magazine does not need enlargement.
> 2. We feel that the illustrations, qualities of paper, type and printing of the magazine are most attractive.
> 3. We feel that the question pages, simple stories and suggestions have been most helpful.
>
> We recommend:
>
> First: That there be space for helpful suggestions for leaders of children's organizations.
>
> Second: That all the material used in the magazine be presented from the children's point of view.
>
> Third: That as an additional advertising measure the Woman's Boards make themselves responsible for pushing the magazine through Secretaries for Literature, making the presentation of "Over Sea and Land" not optional but obligatory. That each Board conduct its correspondence through its own headquarters and not through the office of "Over Sea and Land."
>
> Fourth: That for the current year a budget of $1,000 be allowed to "Over Sea and Land."

Seconded and carried.

No. VIII - Packets of Helps.

Mrs. Bennett suggested No. VIII be omitted for the present.

Seconded and carried.

No. XII - Prayer Books.

The Foreign Boards recommended accepting the Home Board's substitute motion changing the word "workers" to "missionaries" and adding one phrase so that the paragraph would read as follows:

> "That the Prayer Calendar and Year Book of Prayer be made one and that in the united book the missionaries of the Board of Home Missions, the Woman's Board of Home Missions, The Board of Foreign Missions and the Woman's Boards of Foreign Missions be included, subject to the co-operation of the Assembly's Boards of Home and Foreign Missions.

Mrs. Pinney so moved. Seconded and carried.

No. XIII- Magazines.

Among the Foreign Boards the motion had prevailed that they accept the Home Boards' recommendation that "We feel that the time has not yet arrived for their consolidation."

FINANCIAL.

No. IV.- Percentage in Increase.

Mrs. Pinney moved that the General Council be asked to appoint a Committee to whom shall be referred this question.

Seconded and carried.

GENERAL ITEMS.

No. II - Definition of Joint Society.

The Foreign Boards recommended that the following be added: "wherever possible there be two treasurers". Mrs. Louderbough so moved.

Seconded and carried.

No. III. - Membership.

New York had wished the omission of "or pledges" at the end of the first paragraph. New York withdraws its objection, so paragraph stands as before.

No. IV. - Standards of Excellence.

Synodical.

#6 - To read "Books of Prayer" - No vote.

Presbyterial.

#7 - To read "Books of Prayer" - No vote.

#9 - The Home Board having recommended the substitution of a new "9", motion was made by Mrs. Pinney and seconded and carried, section to read as follows: "At least one Presbyterial Young People's Conference held during the year."

#10 - Motion by Miss Hodge that the last eight words be omitted.
Seconded and carried.

#4 - Miss Hodge moved that the last words be changed to read "to the Presbyterial Treasurers".
Seconded and carried.

Local.

New York's objection had been withdrawn and the Home Board's recommendation accepted by the Foreign Boards. Therefore it stands with addition in #8 of words "exclusive of Extensions Department". (See Addenda 2"

9 read
No motion.

No. VIII. - Change of Plan.

Recommended by the Foreign Boards that the words "in which both are interested" be added at the end of the paragraph. Mrs. Bennett moved that this be done and the paragraph read as follows: "Recommended that the Woman's Board of Home Missions and the Womanks Board of Foreign Missions agree to notify each other before sending to Presbyterial or Synodical officers a suggested change of plan or policy in regard to any part of the work in which both are interested."

Adjourned for luncheon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Same members present except Miss Davison from the New York Board instead of Mrs. Waters.

The Chair requested Mrs. McAfee to lead in prayer.

All items regarding the General Committee were considered.

No. 1. - Name.

Suggested by the Foreign Boards that the body be called "The General Council of the Women's Boards of Missions of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.".

Miss Hyatt moved that this be adopted.

Seconded and carried.

New York had withdrawn its objection.

No. II. - Membership.

a. remained unchanged.

The Foreign Boards recommended that "b" be changed to read as follows: "An alternate for each member of the General Council shall likewise be appointed by each Board at its annual meeting. Such alternates may sit with the Council without the privilege of the floor."

Motion to that effect by Miss Hyatt.

Seconded and carried.

No. IV. - Power.

The Board of the Northwest had withdrawn its objection to a two-thirds vote. (It had desired the vote to be unanimous). Motion by Mrs. Hopper that the first sentence remain as at present and that a different second sentence as recommended by the Foreign Boards be substituted. Paragraph to read as follows:-

> "The General Council shall consider and make recommendations to the constituent Boards concerning matters of joint interest. It shall have power to act in emergencies if authorized by a two-thirds vote representing equally the two interests involved."

Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Bennett moved that in accordance with the recommendation of the Foreign Boards, divisions "a" and "b" of No. I be placed under No. IV, as "b." and "c."

Seconded and carried.

No. V. - Sub-Committees.

On the Foreign Boards' recommendation, Mrs. Bennett moved that the following recommendation be sent with the approval of this Committee back to the Boards for action.

a. - Recommended that instead of Publication and Westminster Guild sub-committees, there shall be Publication and Westminster Guild secretaries.

Seconded and carried.

The sub-committee on student work stands.

b. - New York Board having withdrawn its objection, the paragraph stands.

c. - Had been ratified by all and stands.

d. - New York Board had withdrawn its objections. The Home Board had recommended omission of the words "such" and "as are hereinafter provided for", and the Foreign Boards recommended the acceptance of the Home Board's wording.

No Motion.

e. - Stands.

No. VI. - Duties of Sub-Committees.

"a." and "c." had by previous motion been done away with.
"b." and "d." stand, becoming "a." and "b."

New No. VII. a. Upon recommedation from the Foreign Boards, Mrs. MacAfee moved that the following be inserted as "VII. a."

"There shall be a Secretary for Publications who shall be ex-officio member of the General Council with privilege of the floor, but without vote. She shall supervise all joint publications not referred by the General Council to other committees.

Seconded and carried.

Mrs.Bennett proposed the following new paragraph:

c. "In case of vacancy in either office (Secretary for Publications and Secretary for Westminster Guild) the Boards may send nominations to the Secretary of General Council, who, in turn, shall send all nominations to the constituent Boards previous to the meeting of the General Council.

Miss Hodge so moved.

Seconded and carried.

b. Mrs. Hopper moved that the paragraph recommended by the Foreign Boards be accepted as follows:

"There shall be a Secretary for Westminster Guild who shall be ex-officio member of the General Council, with privilege of the floor but without vote."

Seconded and carried.

New No. VIII (Former VII) - Officers.

The objection on the part of one Board had been withdrawn The Board of the Northwest recommended that "three" be changed to "two". Mrs. Bennett moved, therefore, that the paragraph read as follows:-

> "The General Council shall annually elect a Chairman and Secretary from its own membership. No Chairman shall serve more than two consecutive terms."

Seconded and carried.

Moved by Miss Davison that: "All matters requiring vote shall be decided by two-thirds vote representing equally the two interests involved".

Seconded and carried. This paragraph to be placed under "Power" as d.

New No. IX (Former VIII)-

Upon request of the Foreign Boards, moved by Mrs. McAfee that the following be substituted:-

> "The General Council shall meet annually in or near New York City. The exact date to be decided by the Chairman and Secretary of General Council".

Seconded and carried .

New No. X (Former IX)

Upon request by the Foreign Boards, Mrs. Louderbough moved that the date April 15th be changed to April 1st.

Seconded and carried.

New No. XI. (Former X)

Upon recommendation from the Foreign Boards, Mrs. Bennett moved that "Each Board not personally represented at a meeting of General Council may appoint as proxy some member of the General Council".

Seconded and carried.

The Foreign Boards brought the following recommendation: "That the expenses of General Council be borne equally by the Home and Foreign Mission Boards," Miss Hyatt so moved. "and that the expenses shall be borne, entertainment of delegates and expenses incidental to the meeting of General Council." (See Addenda 2)

Seconded and carried.

On motion by Mrs. McAfee it was voted that this body adjourn to meet between the 15th of September and the first of October.

Seconded and carried.

Mrs. Bentt brought the matter of desirability of changing the name of the Lit Bearers, also of printing of local joint envelopes and the suggestion that report blanks be uniform as to the inclusion or exclusion of dis.

No motion upon these matters - To be brought to General Council upon its motion.

Motion Mrs. Finney that the present officers hold over until the adjourn meeting.

seconded carried.

Motion Mrs. Bennett that the Chairman and Secretary be empowered to strike out all unnecessary verbiage.

seconded carried.

Upon motion, the meeting adjourned.